

escape from gravity

Irregular bulletin of the Association of Autonomous Astronauts

No.5

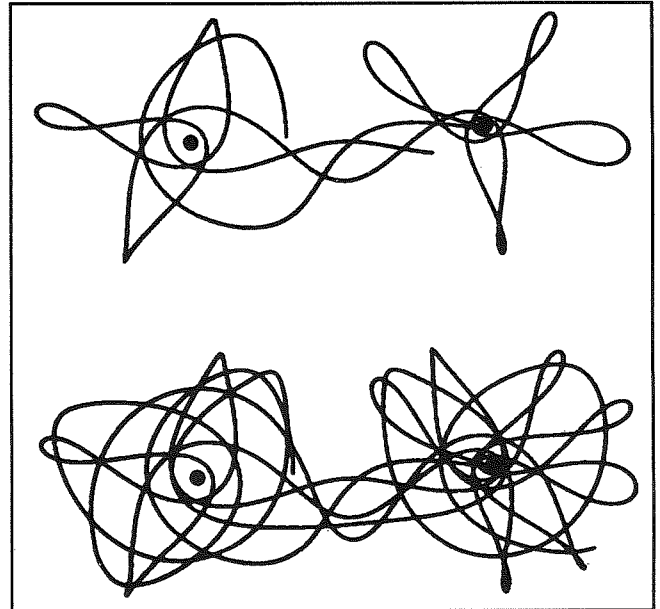
SPECIAL INTERGALACTIC CONFERENCE ISSUE

SEE YOU IN SPACE

The Association of Autonomous Astronauts has moved into the third year of its Five Year Plan for establishing, by the year 2000, a world-wide network of local, community-based groups dedicated to building their own spaceships. To coincide with the second anniversary celebrations on April 23rd 1997, Inner City AAA and Raido AAA have jointly published a Second Annual Report (details for ordering your copy of this report are on the back page). Although this report is in no way a definitive account of the AAA's varied and at times contradictory activities, it nevertheless does bring together a wealth of material from groups within the AAA network.

Towards the end of June 1997, the AAA will hold an Intergalactic Conference in Vienna, Earth (further details are on the back page). AAA Intergalactic Conferences represent a convergence of three aspects to the AAA's independent space programs; namely, as recruitment drive, as media invasion and as propaganda effort, an Intergalactic Conference demonstrates the practical application of the AAA's desire to introduce non-deterministic methods to the construction of spaceships.

State-funded space agencies have yet to absorb the full implications of scientific uncertainty; indeed, the moment they do realise that the universe is subject to intense and random proliferations that are beyond human cognition, these space agencies will conclude that the only course left open to them is to realise their own extinction by promptly handing over all of their resources to the AAA. However, whilst die-hard universalists will be horrified at the idea that pure chance is as fundamental to space exploration as the desire to escape gravity, the AAA regards all this as further support for our ability to move in several directions at once.



Above: The complexities of three-sided football (reduced model of the 3-body problem in the dynamics of Intergalactic Conferences within the AAA's Five Year Plan)

The Cold War Space Race was nothing more than a two-sided football match played between competing ideologies, and as such was also designed to mask the actual social forces, on both sides, that maintained the status quo regarding the state's monopoly of space exploration. Today we can perceive a three-sided race between government space agencies, emerging private enterprise space groups, and the Association of Autonomous Astronauts. This particular contest is becoming a complex, interactive and evolving game of chance that both the proponents of government-funded space agencies and the free-market propagandists are unlikely to even comprehend, given their continuing attachment to binary thought structures.

Meanwhile, the AAA has been developing new trinary concepts, like our use of three-sided football played amongst ourselves and designed to develop necessary skills in the art of deception. And, like a game of three-sided football, Intergalactic Conferences will continue to be organised throughout the second half of the AAA's Five Year Plan, helping to map out how our independent and community-based space programs move and develop in complex, dynamic and totally unpredictable ways.

Space Travel — By Any Means Necessary

An Introduction to the Association of Autonomous Astronauts' Intergalactic Conference in Vienna, Earth, June 21-22 1997

by Jason Skeet, Inner City AAA

The Association of Autonomous Astronauts (AAA) was launched on April 23rd 1995 as the world's first independent and community-based space program. A Five Year Plan was also established for creating, by the year 2000, a world-wide network of local, community-based AAA groups dedicated to building their own spaceships. In order to expand this project, the AAA has organised an Intergalactic Conference on independent, community-based space travel, that will take place in Vienna, Earth June 21-22 1997. This conference will bring together various strands within the Association of Autonomous Astronauts, for further cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences, demonstrating the varied and at times contradictory movements Autonomous Astronauts make whilst escaping from gravity. The conference will also expose local communities in Vienna to the possibilities of independent space exploration. Indeed, this Intergalactic Conference will advance the AAA's aim to grow and develop in several directions at once.

One of the trajectories that the conference will trace is the new phase that the AAA's Five Year Plan for creating a world-wide network of local, community-based groups now moves into. We have called this phase the Dreamtime, and it is in essence a transversalist concept which helps to define the AAA's total opposition to other existing space programs. The Dreamtime asks, "What is the point of going into space only to replicate life on planet earth?" AAA groups around the world are now exploring what kind of experimental modes of living Autonomous Astronauts will create in space, what new social relations will be formed, and what new activities will fill up the empty spaces that had previously fixed the limits of life back on planet earth. The Dreamtime regards space travel as an evolutionary process which will inevitably lead to the extinction of present-day government space agencies. Autonomous Astronauts will create an extra-terrestrial consciousness that jettisons earth-based concepts of national borders and state controls. Amongst other things, the AAA is exploring how sex in zero-gravity will be even better than it is on planet earth, investigating the potential for organising raves in space, and using games of 3-sided football as essential training for Autonomous Astronauts. The AAA is interested in the new possibilities that open up when we form autonomous communities in space.

The AAA has formed an approach to technology that is primarily concerned with investigating how a specific technology is used and who gets to use that technology. It is inevitable that the technology to build spaceships will get cheaper, or even that new technologies will be developed that make present-day rocket propulsion systems entirely redundant. The AAA is the world's only space program that makes technological issues secondary to the concern with what we will be doing when we form autonomous communities in outer space. The AAA investigates conceptions of space exploration in which the imagination is central. In doing so, Autonomous Astronauts create a complex interactive project that anyone can participate in, and which completely changes existing notions of space travel.

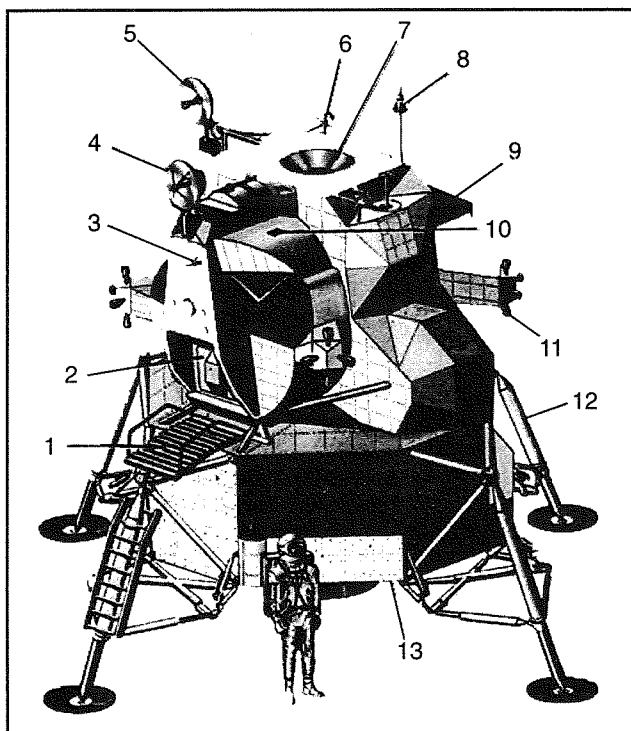
Not only is the AAA combating the government, military and corporate monopoly of space travel, but Autonomous Astronauts are also fighting the increasing number of private enterprise space exploration groups. The AAA has revealed how these conquests of zero-gravity space will be a continuation of the imperialist occupations of planet earth. The Catholic Church has even discussed with NASA a plan for the conversion of aliens to

Christianity. But as the technology to go into space becomes cheaper, the AAA will be concerned with how that technology is used. Plans to create a space tourist industry confirm that the myth of the 'free market' will be projected into space in a bid to further fabricate the fantasy of capitalisms that are inescapable and omnipresent like the force of gravity. The AAA opposes the 'wild west' pioneer metaphors put out by many of these space age entrepreneurs by bringing to space travel a class dimension, and demonstrating how economic austerity is manufactured by those who have a vested interest in preventing the working class from building our own spaceships.

The AAA does not intend to be interpreted as a metaphor for something else. When we talk about building our own spaceships we really mean just that. However, it does follow from this that what we have to say can have many different and complex levels of meaning to it. For example, the myth of space travel as the 'final frontier' is like that other myth about private space enterprise in a universal 'free market'. These myths are designed to mask the social forces that actually shape the present-day state, corporate and military monopoly of space travel. The AAA opposes these myths with our own specifically constructed and contradictory propaganda. These rhetorical constructs are often put into orbit around the concept of space travel as being inherently bound to human evolution. The AAA has declared that the next stage in human evolution is to go into outer space.

But the AAA is not an utopian current for fin-de-siècle bargain hunters. The AAA is interested in the new social relations that exist with the creation of autonomous communities in space. This evolutionary process continues the moment someone opens their mind to such possibilities. According to our analysis, the AAA occupies a unique vantage point from which a multitude of historical trajectories may be traced. And yet, as a network of local, community-based groups who are not seeking to impose their visions of space exploration on anyone else, it has become clear that in outer space no-one will be concerned with the present-day organisation of knowledge. That is, the compartmentalisation of knowledge into the particular categories developed by capitalist culture over the last 500 years. The AAA network allows for a diversity of people to be involved, bringing together different experiences and skills. Ideas collide and new possibilities are made available.

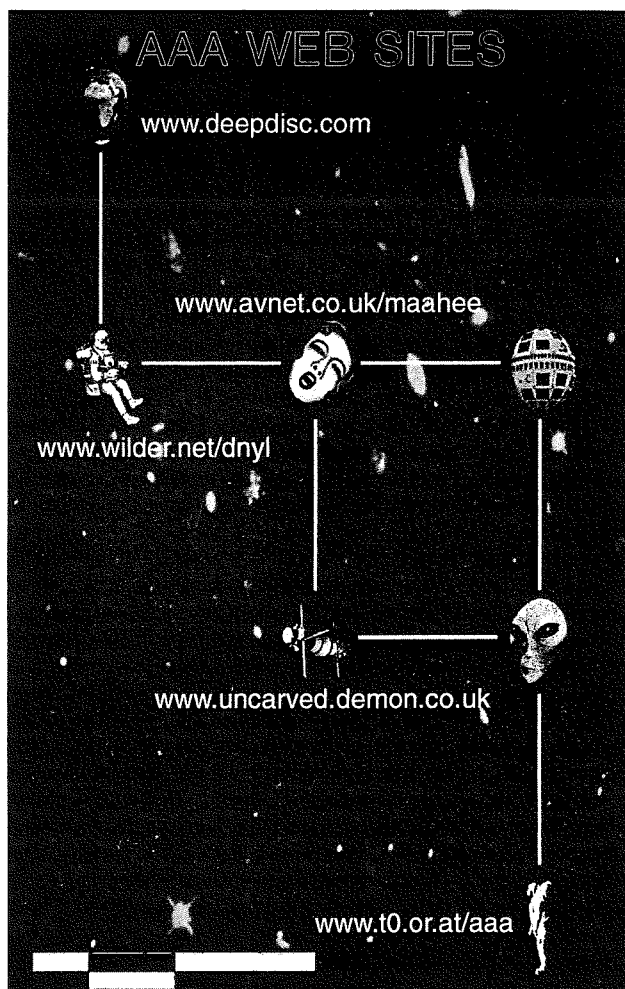
A fundamental strategy developed by the AAA has been the ability to move in several directions at once. The AAA's Intergalactic Conference will further demonstrate this, and promises to be an intense two days of activity. The conference will include: a public presentation of the AAA's aims and objectives, with a debate on independent space exploration; video screening of AAA promotional videos; the opportunity to meet Autonomous Astronauts informally; a SpaceBase established for the duration of the conference, where AAA propaganda material will be on display; a rave in space dance party with experimental electronic music; training day for Autonomous Astronauts with game of 3-sided football. In addition to this, computer terminals will be available for visiting an AAA web-site made by Viennese children, and a spaceship with an interior designed and constructed by children at the Vienna Kinder Museum will be installed. But the real challenge for those that attend this conference will remain — how to build our own spaceships and construct autonomous communities in outer space.



life in space:

autonomous astronaut spacebase

key: 1. Balcony for coffee-breaks; 2. Entrance to sensory deprivation unit; 3. Inter-com to jacuzzi; 4. Satellite TV dish; 5. Pirate radio transmitter; 6. Laser unit for raves in space; 7. Access chute to play room; 8. Outside light for late-night barbeques; 9. Recording studio; 10. Overhead window for printing press; 11. External sound system; 12. Landing gear 13. Basement party space.



XXX PRIZE FOUNDATION

Sex in space is necessary, evolution implies it

£1 MILLION COULD BE WON BY THE FIRST PRIVATELY-FUNDED GROUP TO HAVE SEX IN SPACE

The XXX Prize Foundation, based in London, has announced that it intends to pay £1 million to the first privately-funded team to launch a craft into suborbital space — about 60 miles — and to then engage in sexual intercourse whilst up there. This sexual act may take any form and involve any number of people, but visual documentation must be provided to prove that the sex did occur in a weightless environment.

The XXX Prize Foundation maintains that the purpose of this competition is to show that our destiny as human beings is in outer space.

The XXX Prize Foundation is interested in the new possibilities that are opened up when we form autonomous communities in outer space.

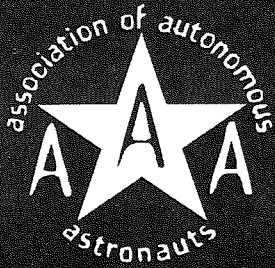
The XXX Prize Foundation hopes that this competition will demonstrate that the point of going into space is not merely to replicate life on planet earth.

The XXX Prize Foundation expects those who enter the competition to rise to the occasion by presenting to the world previously unimagined sexual positions enabled by the freedom of a weightless environment.

Luther Blissett, President of the XXX Prize Foundation, states that although not all the prize money has been secured, he is confident that the competition offers a unique opportunity for both individuals and companies to invest in the future evolution of humanity. Anyone interested in contributing to the prize money should contact the XXX Prize Foundation immediately.

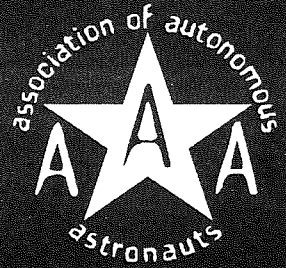
The XXX Prize Foundation hopes that one day we will all enjoy a life-time of zero gravity fun and frolics.

Competition rules and entry forms are available from:
The XXX Prize Foundation
BM Jed
London
WC1N 3XX



Dreamtime Is Upon Us!

The Declaration of April 23rd 1997
From the Association of Autonomous Astronauts



The Association of Autonomous Astronauts (AAA) move into a new phase which they call the Dreamtime.

The Dreamtime is a transversalist concept which defines the AAA's total opposition to all other existing space programmes.

The Dreamtime is concerned with the possibilities that open up when we form autonomous communities in outer space.

The Dreamtime is a collective process and begins the moment anyone opens their mind to the possibilities of independent space travel.

AAA groups across the globe are experimenting with new forms of psycho-social interaction and creating prototypes for a community-based zero-gravity architecture.

The Dreamtime must be considered as a powerful anti-depressant that can prevent us from falling into millennium sickness.

The Dreamtime allows Autonomous Astronauts to wander through space, to experiment with new possibilities in space and time, to experience a new sexuality at zero gravity and to arrive at new concepts of space exploration.

The Dreamtime will be a decisive moment in evolution as the AAA seeks to propel humanity into outer space.

INTERGALACTIC CONFERENCE

Association of Autonomous Astronauts Vienna, Earth, June 21-22 1997

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THE CONFERENCE WILL BE IN HALL 'D' OF THE BUILDING

DREAMTIME IS UPON US the AAA's Second Annual Report

This Annual Report details the hectic activities of Autonomous Astronauts throughout the universe: including three-sided football matches on the moon; constructing bondage equipment for sex in zero gravity; all-night party training for raves in space; information warfare against government space agencies; and carefully staged media invasions designed to open up new possibilities for space exploration and new concepts of space.

price: £3 (inc.p+p)

cheques payable to J.SKEET

orders to: Inner City AAA, BM Jed, London, WC1N 3XX

Subscription — send four first class stamps to receive the next four issues of 'Escape From Gravity' to:

Inner City AAA,
BM Jed,
London, WC1N 3XX.

Donations to our space program are gratefully received.

There is a great field of people around the AAA who are somehow ready for space travel but who aren't trying to do it. People project their hopes on the AAA or write a letter asking how they can join. It isn't like that; it's about forming a group yourself.